

STAFF EDITORIAL:

The Code of Conduct is a contract that students involved in extra and co-curricular activities sign prior to the start of the activity. By signing the contract, it is presumed that it was read, and rules and penalties are understood by the student.

Many people have said that when they sign the Code of Conduct, they just sign it. They do not actually read it. This then creates a problem of students violating the Code of Conduct and getting upset when they think they are getting an unfair punishment or a punishment at all.

This then brings up the punishments coaches are giving. Coaches have given players lighter punishments than they should be given. This has been done and that creates an environment for players where they think if they can play well enough for their team, they can do whatever they want. This kind of behavior and disregard for athletic ethics is what leads to students learning bad habits and thinking they can get away with doing wrong things.

Coaches are also getting away with giving lighter punishments which means players are learning that there aren't any actual punishments.

In one instance, a student athlete described "Two different times, the same two people showed up high before away games and so our coaches did not want to take them with and they did not get in trouble and got to play in the next game."

There are many things wrong with this. For starters

the punishment they were given was the same for both times. The offense in this situation was the very first one listed in the Code of Conduct: consumption of drugs/controlled substances. The penalty for a first offense is sitting out for 1/3 of the season and the second offense is sitting out for 2/3 of the season. Because the issue was not handled the first time, those players made the same decisions again and it was handled the same way. This sets an example for the whole team; this may lead to other players thinking they could do the same thing and pretty much get away with it.

The lack of respect by coaches and players towards the Code of Conduct has also led to the lack of respect towards players who do uphold the Code of Conduct. Student athletes who put their grades and athletic ethics first are being played under those who could care less about the Code of Conduct and their grades. There are some players who do not care as much about the Code of Conduct, but just happen to be even a little better, than the players who do care about academics and upholding the Code of Conduct.

This is how Hoover is being seen by other schools, our community, and our students. This representation is negative and not how it should be seen. There are ways we can change how Hoover is being seen. Those ways are making sure both all students and all faculty are aware of the Code of Conduct and its punishments.

First Offense:

Suspension for 1/3 of the season. Self-reported is a suspension for 10% of the season.

Second Offense:

Suspension for 2/3 of the season. Self-reported is a suspension for 15% of the season or half of the events.

Third Offense:

Suspension from any activity for one full calendar year or 365 days. Self-reported is a suspension for half a year, six months.

CRACKIN' THE CODE

“Students in the Des Moines Public School district who are involved in extracurricular and co-curricular activities represent themselves and their school whether they are away from or at school,” excerpt from the Code of Conduct.

The Purpose of the Code of Conduct

Students in the Des Moines Public School District who are involved in extracurricular and co-curricular activities represent themselves and their school whether they are away from or at school. They must understand that they are expected to conduct themselves in a way that serves as an example to others that will favorably reflect on their school. Extracurricular and co-curricular activities are completely voluntary and are a privilege conditioned upon meeting both eligibility criteria and by demonstrating lawful and respectful conduct. Students are held to high expectations with regard to training rules established by individual activity coaches and the Code of Conduct. All athletics and extracurricular and co-curricular activities are covered by the Code of Conduct. This Code of Conduct does not prohibit a coach or sponsor from establishing his or her own rules for the respective sport or activity with which the student is to follow

Fourth Offense:
Suspension from competition for the rest of their high school career.

A self report is when a student reports their own activity that goes against the Code of Conduct within 72 hours of when the activity took place.